

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-08 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 /081 W

-----030002 160910Z /10

R 141122Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO USINFO WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 3656

USICA

PARIS FOR ARS

WASHDC FOR PGM/RC, MGT, PGM/P, VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: ADB PRESIDENT REACTION CARTER ADF REPLENISHMENT

PROMISE

IVORIAN DAILY FRATERNITE MATIN THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1978
CARRIED FRONT PAGE LEADER AND HALF PAGE INTERIOR ARTICLE
STATEMENT BY AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK PRESIDENT KWAME FORDWOR
IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LAGOS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
U.S. INTENDED TO "KICK- OFF" THE SECOND REPLENISHMENT OF THE
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND WITH A DOLS. 125 MILLION CONTRI-
BUTION. SAYING IT CAME AT A CRITICAL TIME IN THE FUND'S
HISTORY, PRESIDENT FORDWOR, WHO ATTENDED THE DINNER IN LAGOS
GIVEN BY THE NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT
AND MRS. CARTER, THANKED PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY,
HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR WHAT
PRESIDENT FORDWOR CALLED " THIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION."
PRESIDENT FORDWOR NOTED THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND
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WAS ESTABLISHED TO COMPLEMENT THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IN
THE PROMOTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN
COUNTRIES. HE SAID THE FUND IS "A TANGIBLE EXPRESSION OF
COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPED NATIONS,
ADDING THAT THE FUND "HAS PROVED REMARKABLY EFFECTIVE", NOTABLY
IN THE AREAS OF "INCREASED AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT, HEALTH AND
EDUCATION FACILITIES AND VARIOUS INFRASTRUCTURAL PREREQUISITES

FOR DEVELOPMENT."

PRESIDENT FORDWOR SAID THE U.S. PLEDGED CONTRIBUTION TO THE REPLENISHMENT OF THE FUND FOR THE PERIOD 1979-81 " IS AT ONCE TIMELY AND COMMENDABLE", SINCE THE FUND'S RESOURCES WILL NEED REPLENISHMENT BY THE END OF 1978. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT FORDWOR, AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FUND'S MANAGEMENT AND THE 18 BENEFACTOR STATES, "IT BECAME QUITE CLEAR THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES FELT RELUCTANT TO MAKE PRONOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FUND, BEFORE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DECIDED ON WHETHER OR NOT, AND TO WHAT EXTENT IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE. CONSEQUENTLY FOR US IN THE FUND, AND FOR AFRICA IN GENERAL, PRESIDENT CARTER'S EARLY INTERVENTION IS A TIMELY VINDICATION OF LEADERSHIP THAT WAS EXPECTED FROM HIS COUNTRY BY AFRICA, NO LESS THAN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. FOR, IT IS NOT WITHOUT GOOD REASON THAT IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED THAT "WHEN AMERICAN SNEEZES, THE REST OF THE WORLD CATCHES A COLD."

THE AFRICAN BANK AND FUND PRESIDENT WENT ON TO CHARACTERIZE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION AS "NOT MERELY HELPFUL IN ITSELF. WHAT IS OF EVENT GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IS, I BELIEVE, ITS DRAWING OR MAGNETIC POWER AND ITS POWER TO ACT AS A CATALYST, CREATING THE RIGHT CLIMATE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO RESPOND..."

PRESIDENT FORDWOR THEN QUOTED FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S EULOGY FOR THE LATE SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY: "HE DIDN'T SEE FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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AID AS A GIVEAWAY. HE DIDN'T SEE FOREIGN AID AS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS GOING FROM OUR NATION TO OTHERS. HE SAW FOREIGN AID AS AN INVESTMENT -- FROM A RICH NATION, A PITTANCE ALMOST, COMPARED TO WHAT WE EARN AND HAVE -- THAT BUILDS UP A WELLSPRING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US AND THOSE HUNGRY PEOPLE."

AND PRESIDENT FORDWOR CONCLUDED: "IF I MAY BE PERMITTED TO SAY SO, PRESIDENT CARTER'S STYLE OF LEADERSHIP HAS LED US TO BELIEVE THAT, THAT IS HOW HE SEES FOREIGN AID HIMSELF. THAT IS WHY WE IN THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, CAN LOOK FORWARD TRUSTINGLY TO INCREASING AND FRUITFUL COOPERATING BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE FUND.

STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA03656
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780163-0568
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780456/aaaabvkr.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: faaa01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2966644
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADB PRESIDENT REACTION CARTER ADF REPLENISHMENT PROMISE IVORIAN DAILY FRATERNITE MATIN THURSDAY APRIL 13
TAGS: ECIN, EFIN, AFDF, AFDB, (CARTER, JIMMY), (FORDWOR, KWAME)
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/faaa01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014